



# HONORING HOOSIER VETERANS

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 12, 2007

## What You Can Do To Help

Contact your legislators to voice your support: [www.ia.org/legislative](http://www.ia.org/legislative)

Indiana House of Representatives  
200 W. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-232-9600 or 800-382-9842

Indiana State Senate  
200 W. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-232-9400 or 800-382-9467

## Don't forget ...

The new "Support our Troops" license plate is now available and may be purchased at the BMV upon request. The plate will fund a trust to provide assistance to military families in need.

## State Income Tax Initiative Explained

Under current statute, a taxpayer is eligible to take a state tax deduction if the income reported on his or her income tax return includes active or reserve military pay, retirement pay or survivor's benefits. The deduction is equal to the actual amount of military income received or \$2,000, whichever is less. If both taxpayers in a joint return received military income, they may each claim the deduction for a maximum of \$4,000. This amount has not been changed since the deduction was implemented in 1977.

The Governor's proposal would increase the deduction to \$5,000 for individuals, or \$10,000 for military couples filing jointly (a 150% increase in either case).

## GOVERNOR DANIELS PROPOSES EXPANDED BENEFITS FOR HOOSIER VETERANS

As the 2007 Legislative Session begins, Governor Daniels has made it a top priority to help Hoosier veterans and military families.

"Hoosiers revere our veterans as deeply as anyone in America, but Indiana law, ironically, does not fully reflect that reverence," said Daniels.

### Governor Daniels initiatives include:

\*Exempting all military pay earned while serving in combat from Indiana state income tax.

\*Increasing the maximum allowable state income tax deductions on military pay from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year.

\*Providing state matching funds of up to \$350,000 annually for Indiana Military Families Relief Fund.

\*Extending the delayed high school diploma program to veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

The Governor also developed two other initiatives in conjunction with the National Governor's Association and



Governor Mitch Daniels speaks at the Indiana War Memorial on Veteran's Day, 2006. Click [here](#) to listen to his speech.



Many representatives from Hoosier veterans groups attended the unveiling of the "Support Our Troops" license plate on December 28, 2006.

U.S. Department of Defense to work toward consistent and uniform policies to support members of the military and their families:

\*Allow in-state tuition rates for out-of-state soldiers assigned to Indiana.

\*Establish a spouse employment program.

Since 2005, the governor has spearheaded a number of initiatives aimed to help Indiana's veterans and military families, including the crea-

tion of two veterans specialty plates, restoring a fee remission program at state colleges and universities for children of disabled veterans, and a ban on protests within 200 yards of military funerals.

Governor Daniels spent the Easter holiday last April with soldiers stationed in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan to show his support for their service. He also visited Hoosier soldiers at the Korean Demilitarized Zone during his June trade mission to Asia.

## Important Contact Information

### Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs:

Director: Tom Applegate  
302 W. Washington Street, Room E120  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738  
Telephone: 317-232-3910  
Fax: 317-232-7721  
Toll Free (In State): 1-800-400-4520  
<http://www.in.gov/veteran/>



A model of the USS Indianapolis sits on the mantel in the lobby of the Governor's office. A USS Indianapolis Museum will be established at the Indiana War Memorial downtown in late July. (Model donated by the USS Indianapolis Museum)